

mind was not to be carried away by religious enthusiasm, and in any case no reproach could fall on a prince whose fleets had subdued a large extent of Moslem Africa. But the Crusade might be made to serve his own ends. It had already lightened the pressure of foreign relations, and diverted Conrad from his hope of descending over the Alps and moving upon Roger's kingdom. In alliance with the German King, Byzantine fleets might now be landing the troops of the Basileus upon the Apulian coast; Greek envoys were at the time in Germany seeking an alliance of the two Empires against him. The Pope was still at war with Roger, but he could now look for no "Rome-journey" which would end in Conrad's suppressing the Roman commune, and avenging him upon the Sicilian; Eugenius could almost grudge a Crusade which meant a prolongation of his exile. But Roger might hope for positive results also from the Crusade; the essence of his policy was an alliance with the royal house of France against the Holy Roman Empire, the foe of both, and against the Empire of the East, the traditional enemy of the Norman kingdom. France indeed seemed the appropriate ally; out of her had come the first

conquerors of Apulia; in her borders,
as in Italy,
monarchy was slowly bridling
feudalism. . Once
friends with Louis, Roger could deliver,
rather than
await, the attack of Constantinople.

The position of the Greek Empire in
the Crusade
was a delicate one. On the one
hand, she was